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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

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## REFERENCE ADV

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1. The Amt fuer Information (Information Office) of Land Saxony-Anhalt is located on the fourth floor at 7 Willy-Lohmann-Strasse, in Halle. The office consists of a section for information control, a section for peace and planning propaganda (Friedens- und Planpropaganda), a press and radio section, a cultural section including a film department, a correspondence section, a license section and an archives section for newspapers and periodicals. In the Landrat Offices of each of the 30 rural Kreise and on the municipal boards of the principal cities (kreisfreie Staedte) in the Land, the Amt fuer Information has from one to four representatives depending upon the size of the Kreis or city concerned. These employees are responsible to the Amt fuer Information in all matters pertaining to reporting; however, they also submit reports to the Landraete and Oberbuergermeisters.
2. Like the corresponding offices of the other Laender in the Soviet Zone of Germany, the Amt fuer Information of Land Saxony-Anhalt, is guided by a monthly plan prepared by the headquarters of the "Amt fuer Information der DDR" in Berlin and carried into execution by its information control section. The plan provides that reporting cater to the interests of the population of the Kreis or town concerned; for example, in those areas having a predominantly agricultural population reporting should center around such subjects as the extent to which farmers filled their prescribed quotas, the difficulties they met in tilling their fields or perhaps the areas in which they were short of tractors. Political subjects such as activities of the National Front or the reaction of the population to certain government measures are also dealt with in all Kreise. At the same time representatives of the Amt fuer Information in Kreise and principal cities (kreisfreie Staedte) also are directed to report automatically on special occurrences in parties, on popular tendencies and similar phenomena which may call for government action. The information control section is responsible for all activities pertaining to the compilation of reports; this includes any necessary investigations.
3. The peace and planning propaganda section is responsible for disseminating pro-Communist propaganda; this responsibility includes the maintenance of standard propaganda displays of banners, posters, emblems, and flags at border crossing points such as Marienborn (X 53/Y 20).

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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4. The press and radio section keeps a close watch on the newspapers in the Land and submits weekly reports concerning their reactions to political events; it is also authorized to take appropriate steps to prevent such political blunders as the printing of novels with pro-western ideas. The section also controls the broadcasts of the Land radio station in Halle, but does not concern itself with Rias which is monitored by the central information office in Berlin. The planning in the press and radio section is centered primarily around the goal of organizing that section into an effective anti-western apparatus.
5. The cultural section keeps a close watch over theaters, variety shows, circuses and theatricals presented by the various Communist front organizations. Its work is accomplished primarily through agents who regularly attend theaters and variety shows and examine newspaper reviews of such performances. The film department which is an organic component of the cultural section exercises control over all motion picture theaters which, with practically no exception, have been communalized. The department also allocates German and Soviet pictures to the various theaters.
6. The correspondence section was established in February 1951 for the purpose of developing in the minds of the people "firm confidence in their government". It is charged with handling all complaints referred to the Amt fuer Information.
7. The license section examines and releases all publications with the exception of those which are handled by the Ministry of Public Education and are not of a political nature. It devotes special attention to applications submitted by ecclesiastical organizations whose licenses are subject to particularly stringent controls.
8. The archives section collects newspapers and periodicals and lends them to the various ministries upon request. Western newspapers received include the Communist paper Hamburger Volkszeitung and a number of technical periodicals such as the Funktechnik and Haush und Wohnung. Until 1950 major daily papers from Western Germany were evaluated and select articles were extracted by the Saxony-Anhalt office for the Minister of the Interior, the Minister President and the SCC; however, this function is now performed in Berlin.
9. Reports compiled by the Land Amt fuer Information for the central office in Berlin are distributed also to the SED Landesleitung, the Soviet Control Commission, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister President, and the Land Commission for State Control. There is no direct cooperation with the SCC; however, Soviet offices receive reports concerning the morale of the population upon request. No cooperation with the SSD or connections in the West were observed.
10. Persons employed at the Amt fuer Information in Land Saxony-Anhalt include Hertha Kitzel as temporary chief; Arthur Matthaes, who is chief of the information control section and is assisted by instructors Max Zube, Rolf Erb, Rudi Widicke and Poganiuch (ihu); Hannelore Blischke, who is chief of the peace and planning section and is assisted by Hans Winderle and Gerhard Buttner; Walter Lange, who is chief of the press and radio section and is assisted by Edgar Illgen; Walter Schmidt, who is chief of the cultural section and is assisted by Marianne Fenzl and Hans Voitek who serves as chief of the film department; Ernst Keil, who serves as chief of the license section; and Georg Kenzel, who is in charge of the archives.

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